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Hoover Institution Role in Space Program Archives

Discussion with Dr. Campbell, Director and Mr. Philip T. Mc Lean, Librarian. We quickly agreed that the Hoover Institution should play a role of leadership in the acquisition of materials on the space program. The main concern was where to draw the line between the technical products and the political considerations. The Hoover would not be especially interested in the technical side of it, partly because of their limitation of resources, although I tried several times to point out that it would be increasingly difficult to maintain a distinction. They did not disagree with this but it was obvious that they could not be too enthusiastic about developing the necessary staff for the total picture. However, it may be possible to work out some system of coordination so that there would still be a point of direction in the Hoover Institution while insuring that all the technical material was distributed throughout the University system. This is somewhat less satisfactory than I had hoped but I think it will work out. I did try to point out that if they used too rigorous a criterion, they might very likely have discarded notes on Columbus's voyages as being concerned with technical problems in navigation, geography and natural history. Perhaps something might do with a formula based on antiquity, most of the technical reports are scientifically useful only within a few years of their publication whereas their historical importance becomes more acute and more evident the older they are.

At any rate, Dr. Campbell indicated that he would be very happy if I would indicate to Berkner that they would be very happy to have his IGY correspondence and any similar materials and I will accordingly go ahead on that basis.

I left with them some materials, including the OTS Reports on Russian cooperation in the IGY and they will use these as test samples for their own present coverage.

W. Glenn Campbell